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**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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July 15, 2009

Mr. W. Ross Ashley, III  
Assistant Administrator  
Grant Programs Directorate, DHS/FEMA  
800 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20472-3620

Dear Administrator Ashley:

I am pleased to support the Hayward Fire Department's application to seek funding for the desperately needed construction of a new Fire Station #7 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Fire Station Construction Grant Program. The new station will replace the current dilapidated, unsafe structure, as well as expand fire protection coverage to meet increased service demand and improve emergency response times and mutual aid capabilities.

Unfortunately, crews working in the current dilapidated facility (which consists of a modular trailer for living quarters and separate metal building which stores both the ladder and truck, physical fitness area, EMS de-contamination sink, and station repair shop) have experienced sub-standard conditions for several years largely due to its shed qualities and deterioration of the structures that were originally constructed as a two-year temporary solution more than 12 years ago. These unsafe conditions pose a hazard to fire fighting personnel who work at this facility.

Funding to construct a new Station #7 will ensure that firefighter health and safety is significantly improved and community protection is enhanced. By contrast, if the station is not constructed:

- The station will continue to deteriorate and will suffer from increased mold, mildew and rot, which will increase exposure to these elements for the firefighters housed at the facility.
- There will be continued delays in response times due to the separation of the living quarters and Apparatus Bay.
- Fire companies will be forced to leave the protection district to refill apparatus and other fire and/or fueling stations as the current

station has no fueling capabilities and to replenish both oxygen and SCBA bottles, both integral to firefighter and public safety.

A new Fire Station #7 is critical to helping the Hayward FD improve firefighter health and safety, meet emergency response needs, enhance response capability, strengthen community protection, and expand mutual aide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Stark", with a large, stylized initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pete Stark  
Member of Congress